



from the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee
P.O. Box 11867 • Room 227 Blatt Building
Columbia, South Carolina, 29211
Communications Office, (803) 734-6164 • Dana Yow
www.sceoc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Staton receives Order of the Silver Crescent

EDITOR'S NOTE: The EOC held a full meeting December 12, 2005, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 433, Blatt Building. The Order of the Silver Crescent was presented to Bob Staton by Rita Allison at a luncheon preceding the meeting.



Columbia – Robert E. Staton, Chairman of the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC), was awarded the Order of the Silver Crescent, South Carolina's highest award for volunteer and/or community service, today.

“Over the course of his lifetime, Bob Staton has lived his commitments to strong communities, nurturing families, and a prosperous future for South Carolina,” said EOC Vice Chairman Alex Martin. “His life is a testimony to performance, contribution, and achievement.”

Staton was appointed to the EOC in 1998 and in 2002, replaced Spartanburg businessman Bill Barnet as chairman.

A native of Virginia, Staton is President and CEO of United Way of South Carolina and is the Chairman of the Board for Carolina National Bank. He is a retired chairman of Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company a business unit of UnumProvident Corporation.

A graduate of Presbyterian College, Staton served in the United States Army. Following his years of service, he entered the University of South Carolina School, where he received his Juris Doctorate degree.

Staton is a member and former elder of Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church in Lexington. He serves as a trustee of Presbyterian College and leader of its capital campaign. He is Chairman

of the Board of Carolina National Bank and serves on the boards of the Columbia Museum of Art and the Columbia River Alliance.

He has previously served as Chairman of the Columbia Urban League, the United Way of the Midlands, the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, the Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington Counties, the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce's Education Council and Alliance for Excellence in Education.

Staton was named 1998 South Carolina Business Leader of the Year by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. In 2000, he was recognized as Ambassador of the Year by the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, and received the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the United Way of the Midlands.

In 2001, he received the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest civilian award, presented by the Governor of South Carolina.

He and his wife, Mary, have four children and four grandchildren.

Established by the EAA, the EOC is an independent, non-partisan, 18-member legislative committee made up of educators, business persons, and elected officials who serve by virtue of their elected position or by appointment of the legislature or governor. It bears responsibilities for the development and improvement of SC's educational accountability system and for making recommendations to ensure the continuous improvement of schools.